

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1-12. (Canceled).

13. (Currently Amended) A method for warning a driver of a motor vehicle, comprising:

detecting, by an object detector, at least one preceding vehicle, and a distance and relative velocity with respect to the motor vehicle;

supplying the distance and relative velocity to an evaluation device;

ascertaining, by the evaluation device, whether, assuming that the preceding vehicle ~~performed initiated~~ a deceleration, a collision with the preceding vehicle would be avoidable as a function of a reaction time of the driver and a maximum possible deceleration of the motor vehicle; and

activating a warning device in an event that the collision would be unavoidable.

14. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 13, wherein the reaction time of the driver is determined by averaging reaction times from previous driving situations in which a driver reaction was required.

15. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 13, wherein the reaction time of the driver is a predetermined value.

16. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 15, wherein the driver of the vehicle specifies the reaction time using a control element.

17. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 13, wherein the warning device issues at least one of an acoustic and visual signal.

18. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 13, wherein the warning device issues a driver warning using a reversible belt tensioner, the reversible belt tensioner being pretensioned at least one time.

19. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 13, wherein the warning device issues a driver warning device by a brief triggering of a deceleration device.

20. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 13, wherein the warning device issues a driver warning at least one of: i) by a haptic accelerator pedal, and ii) in the form of a vibration of a steering wheel.

21. (Currently Amended) A device for warning a driver of a motor vehicle, comprising:
an object detector which detects a preceding vehicle and a distance and relative velocity with respect to the motor vehicle;

an evaluation device which receives the distance and the relative velocity, the evaluation device configured to ascertain whether, assuming that the preceding vehicle performed initiated a deceleration, a collision with the preceding vehicle would be avoidable as a function of a reaction time of the driver and of a maximum possible deceleration of the motor vehicle; and

a driver warning device configured to issue a driver warning in an event that a collision is unavoidable.

22. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 21, wherein the driver warning device is at least one of a visual and acoustic signaling device.

23. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 21, wherein the driver warning device is a reversible belt tensioner.

24. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 21, wherein a vehicle deceleration device is used as the driver warning device.

25. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 21, wherein the reaction time of the driver is determined by averaging reaction times from previous driving situations in which a driver reaction was required.

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/579,998
Attorney Docket No. 10191/4566
Reply to Final Office Action of January 23, 2009

26. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 21, wherein the reaction time of the driver is a predetermined value.
27. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 21, wherein the driver of the vehicle specifies the reaction time using a control element.
28. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 21, wherein the warning device provides a driver warning using a reversible belt tensioner that is pretensioned at least one time.
29. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 24, wherein the warning includes a brief triggering of the vehicle deceleration device.
30. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 21, wherein the warning device issues a driver warning by at least one of through a haptic accelerator pedal and by vibrating a steering wheel.